PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

NEW JERSEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Vol. I. 1845–1846. No. 3.

NEW BRUNSWICK, *November 6th*, 1845.

THE SOCIETY met pursuant to adjournment, COL. ROBERT G. JOHNSON, First Vice President, in the Chair; the HON. JAMES PARKER, another of the Vice Presidents being also present. The Corresponding Secretary reported upon the correspondence of the Society since the last meeting, and read letters from Professor Sparks, Hon. Theodore Frelinghuysen, Messrs. David B. Ogden, J. R. Brodhead, Jas. Parker, of Ohio, and F. W. Hubbell, of Penn., in acknowledgment of their election as honorary, or corresponding members; and from Messrs. S. Alofsen and Wm. Duane accompanying donations.

The Donations to the Society since September were announced, and the Secretary laid upon the table a large number of original documents connected with public affairs in New Jersey during a number of years, which had belonged to the Morris family, and placed at the disposal of the Society by Charles S. Boggs, Esq., Lieut. U. S. N., a descendant.

As this gift was one of unusual interest, on motion of Rev. Dr. COGSWELL, it was

Resolved, That the thanks of the Society be specially communicated to Lieut. C. S. Boggs for his valuable donation of original papers.

The Rev. D. V. MCLEAN, Chairman of the Executive Committee, stated that a recent painful event at Princeton (the illness of young

Mr. Boudinot at the house of Prof. D. and his subsequent death,) would debar the Society the gratification expected from hearing an address from Professor Dod at the present meeting, as was expected.

Mr. Wm. B. Kinney, from the Committee on Publications, reported, in effect that they had contracted for the publication of the History of East New Jersey under the Proprietary Governments, and that the work would soon be published, in an octavo volume of about 300 pages.

Mr. W. A. Whitehead, Chairman of Committee on Statistics, reported verbally that no special subject of inquiry having been referred to them by the Society, the committee had directed their attention to the Criminal Statistics of the State and had taken preparatory steps towards the obtainment from the various counties, of information which they trusted would prove not only of interest to the members of the Society, but to the people of the State generally. He hoped the first fruits of their exertions would be presented in the Annual Report of the keeper of the State Prison—who had politely promised, at the suggestion of the committee, to comprise in his report, so far as the records of his office would permit, full statistical details of the institution for as long a period as possible.

A vacancy existing in this Committee, through the declination of Mr. Paterson, the Rev. A. A. Marcellus, of Monmouth, was appointed to fill it.

Dr. Murray, from the Committee on Nominations reported various members, who were duly elected, and other nominations were received.

The Committee suggested, as the Constitution limits the number of Honorary Members, to be elected in any one year, to *twenty;* the propriety of members, nominating for that class, confining themselves to *one* name each, at any one meeting; and that special reference be had in the nominee to his connection with history and historical subjects.

The Committee also suggested that much benefit might accrue to the Society by an addition to the number of Corresponding Members. (Native Jerseymen residing elsewhere.) It is gratifying to those abroad to be claimed still as Jerseymen in feeling, and by the nomination of proper persons the correspondence with them might in time become highly valuable, from the literary stores and natural productions it will bring into its library and cabinets. They therefore advised the members to increase their nominations for Corresponding Members, by a judicious selection among the natives of the State residing permanently elsewhere.

The special order of business was then taken up—being the amendment to the Constitution offered at the last meeting by the Rev. Dr. Murray,

"The Library and Depositories shall be located at Newark."

After some discussion the Rev. Mr. McLean moved to postpone the subject to the Annual meeting,—lost, and the hour of 3 P. M. having arrived the subject was laid on the table for the present to enable the Society to hear a "Memoir of Gov. Lewis Morris" read by the Rev. Dr. DAVIDSON, of New Brunswick.*

In connection with his paper, Dr. D. presented to the Society a letter book of Mr. Morris, containing copies of official and private letters written by him while Governor of New Jersey.

On motion, the thanks of the Society were voted to Dr. Davidson for the memoir, and also for his valuable donation.

5 P. M. The Society being called to order, the discussion upon the amendment of the Constitution was renewed.

After some conversation, the Society gave permission to Dr. Murray to withdraw his amendment and he submitted instead thereof the following resolution, which (after an amendment offered by Dr. Proudfit, to make the Corresponding Secretary the depositary ; had been negatived) was adopted.

Resolved, That for the present the Library and Depository of the Society shall be at Newark.

On motion of Mr. ARCHER GIFFORD,

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to collect information from distingished persons of our State with regard to such events of their own time in which they may have participated, or of which they had knowledge, as may be interesting to this Society or useful to a Biographer—to be deposited in the confidential archives of the Society.

The resolution was referred to the Executive Committee.

On motion of Rev. Mr. MCLEAN,

Resolved, That the Executive Committee be authorized to apply to the Legislature for an act incorporating the Society.

On motion of Mr. WHITEHEAD,

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to present a memorial to the Legislature, in behalf of the Society, asking for the adoption of such measures as may be necessary to secure to the State copies of all historical documents of importance for the full illustration of our

* Dr. Davidson's valuable paper is reserved for future publication.—COM.

past history, that may be in the possession of the other States of the Union,—and also the requisite measures for obtaining accurate information respecting the character, number, and place of deposit of the documents in the English archives referring to our Colonial History; and also of the probable expense of obtaining copies thereof for the use of the State.

Messrs. W. A. Whitehead, S. G. Potts and R. S. Field were appointed the Committee.

Rev. Dr. Murray introduced a resolution for the appointment of a Committee to co operate with the inhabitants of Monmouth County in effecting the erection of a Monument on the battle ground of Monmouth; which, after some conversation, was indefinitely postponed.

The Corresponding Secretary stated that, from information he had received, it was probable many, if not all, of the papers of Governor Franklin were at present in Paris, in the possession of the widow of his son. There was no certainty that they could be obtained, but he submitted the matter to the action of the Society; the papers were undoubtedly valuable, and it would be very gratifying could they be secured. He then read a letter from Professor Sparks relating to these papers.

Mr. Charles King, after some remarks, offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the Corresponding Secretary be authorized to open a correspondence with the representatives of the Franklin family, or other persons, in Paris, with the view of obtaining for the archives of the Society such original papers of Governor William Franklin as may be in their possession.

An invitation was received from the Committee of Arrangements to attend the celebration at Elizabethtown, on the 24th of November instant, on the occasion of the erection of a Monument to the memory of Rev. James Caldwell, which was accepted by the Society.

The Society adjourned to meet at Trenton on the third Thursday in January, 1846.

SELECTIONS FROM THE CORRESPONDENCE AND PAPERS

Laid before the Society.

FROM DAVID B. OGDEN, ESQ.

NEW YORK, *September* 12, 1845.

MY DEAR SIR,

I have had the pleasure of receiving your note of the 9th instant, giving me notice that I have been elected a corresponding member of the New Jersey Historical Society. In acknowledging the receipt of your note, I cannot but express my thanks to the Society for the honor they have done me, my earnest approval of the objects of the Society, and my belief that its efforts will be the means of preserving many important historical documents which might else be lost, and which may be very interesting to those who feel an interest in the history of the past days of the State, and in her future destiny.

With great respect, I am your humble serv't.

DAVID B. OGDEN.

WM. A. WHITEHEAD, ESQ.

FROM MR. S. ALOFSEN.

JERSEY CITY, *November* 3, 1845.

DEAR SIR,

I have the honor to request you to accept as a trifling addition to the Library of the New Jersey Historical Society, a copy of the London edition of the engravings of the engines and boilers of the Steam Frigate Kamschatka, built at New York for the Russian Government, by Messrs. R. & G. L. Schuyler; accompanied by a published letter of Mr. George L. Schuyler, to Hon'ble W. Gwin, Member of Congress from Mississippi, dated New York, January 30, 1843, and by a file of N. Y. newspapers of the time, containing descriptive articles relative to her construction, &c., &c.

It was the intention of the Messrs. Schuyler to build the Kamschatka at Jersey City, but as the soundings proved an insufficient depth of water for launching a vessel of her class, this project was, after due deliberation, reluctantly abandoned. She was built at New York, and after her launch on the 24th November, 1840, taken to Jersey City to the pier foot of Wayne street, (purposely constructed for her accommodation) to receive her machinery and boilers, &c.,

and from whence she sailed for Cronstadt on the 29th September, 1841.

At that time the Kamschatka was the largest Steamship of War ever built in the world, being of 600 horse power and measuring as a Double Decker 2049 9-95 tons, and as a Single Decker 2281 90-95 tons. Many parts of her heavy machinery had never been constructed in this country, and no establishment of the required magnitude existed to forge her shafts. Messrs. H. Abbott & Co. of Baltimore, undertook this work. They erected a building and triphammer, which proved to be of inadequate power, and meeting with further disasters they became well nigh despondent, and the much desired object of procuring this work also in the United States, would have been abandoned had not the Messrs. Schuyler rendered them every necessary assistance.

Notwithstanding all that has been said against this handsome specimen of American genius, as well here as elsewhere, the Kamschatka still remains the favorite Steamer of the Emperor Nicholas, and has this summer been selected to convey the Empress to Italy for the recovery of her health; which shows that His Majesty appreciates and confides as much in the skill of the Dutchmen of New Netherlands, as did his celebrated ancestor the Great Czaar Peter in that of their ancestors of the Old United Provinces.

I am, sir, with sentiments of high regard, your obedient servant,

S. ALOFSEN.

To W. A. WHITEHEAD, Esq., Cor. Sec. N. J. Hist. Soc.

THREE LETTERS FROM WILLIAM FRANKLIN,
Governor of New Jersey, to his father, Dr. Franklin, copies of which were presented by William Duane, Esq., of Philadelphia.

BURL^{N}, June 10, 1767.

HON^{D} FATHER,

I have before me your two favours of March 19 and April 11, which came by the pacquet.

Your remarks on the Report of the Board of Trade have been printed and never any thing met with more general approbation. Even the Prop^{y} Party are warm in its praises. Alex^{r} Houston, I am told, has acknowledg^{d} that he did not believe that all the writers on his side of the question put together could produce any thing equal to it. Our friend, Sam^{l} Smith of this town says that he thinks all the Provinces in North America ought to join to make it worth your while to reside in England as long [as] you live. The People of this

Province are much pleased with your having mentioned New Jersey as one of the colonies which have guarded against excess in paper currency. They have no tidings of any thing's being done by their own agent* in this or any other American affair; and the Ass^y having some resentment for their being surprised into the appointment of him, will probably remove him at this Sessions. But whom they will appoint in his stead I cannot guess.

The clamour in England against the colonies has alarmed the people here in general. The New York Assembly, I'm told, have voted 3000£ for supplying the King's troops with necessaries, which is to be put into the hands of persons who are to provide the same articles as are required by Act of Parliament, without taking any more notice of that Act than if it had never existed. Our Assembly, which is now sitting, will, I believe, act nearly on the same plan. They had indeed provided in the last Act, all the necessaries mentioned in the Act of Parliament except cider, or rum in lieu thereof; but they at the same time provided some other things which were not required by that Act; and the officers and soldiers quartered in this Province have acknowledged themselves well satisfied. There are several letters from England which mention Gov^r. Moore's impudent letter's being read in the House of Lords and I hear 'tis likely to occasion some uneasiness between him and the people at New York. I wish, however, that the Assemby there had done at their last sitting what they have now done, as it would have saved their friends in the ministry a great deal of trouble and they might too have done it very consistently, if, as you say, they considered the Act in the light of a requisition. As to the Boston Assembly there seem to be no hopes of any temperate proceedings from that quarter unless Gov^r Barnard was removed or Otis was to die.

You may depend that your mahogany press will not be used, and I fancy they have avoided meddling with the litter, but I shall enquire. When Mr. Parker comes this way I will get him to fix a value on that and the old press.

I am much obliged to you for procuring the collectorship for my friend Kollock. I have wrote to him that it was procured by a friend of mine, to whom I had applied in his behalf; and have taken pains to inculcate among our friends your aversion to engage in such applications while you continue Agent. The reasons you urge for its not being known that you had any hand in the affair are undoubtedly of

[* Henry Wilmot: appointed in 1766 and superseded in 1769 by the appointment of Dr. Franklin.—Cor. Sec.]

great weight, and I have contrived it so that it is generally suspected that I obtained it through Mr. Cooper with whom, many here have heard I was acquainted in England. The David Hill you mention is a Member of Assembly for Sussex, and had the Proprietary interest to procure the office. As the Proprietor has failed in his application, I suppose the party would, if they thought his want of success was owing to you, make such another outcry as they did when they were disappointed in getting the Collectorship of New Castle for one Morris in whose behalf they had greatly exerted themselves. Morris's friends and the Prop^{r} wrote over that you had got the office for Walker (I think his name is) and that they were so informed at the Treasury. This was generally believed to be truth, and you were much abused for using your interest for a drunken fellow and a stranger, when you might have got it for some man of character on this side of the water, or let the Prop^{r} have procured it for some such; that your not doing this was making a wanton use of your interest merely with a view of thwarting the Prop^{r} &c. &c. But when the man arrived and heard these reports, he declared that he was not even known to you, and I have [heard?] told many that he owed his place to Mr. Trecothic as you wrote me. But the Prop^{y} Party notwithstanding, persevere in declaring that you got it for him, and that they have letters which mention it. I suppose the Prop^{r} had heard of the application you made for that office in behalf of some friend, and concluded when the appointment was made that Walker was the man. As to the fees which you have paid or may pay, on account of Mr. Kollock's commission I will be answerable to you for them, and should be glad you'd acquaint me what they are.

Gov^{r} Wentworth visited me on his journey and lay a night at my house. I next morning accompanied him as far as Trenton Falls where we spent the day a fishing and supped together. I think him a very sensible, easy, agreeable gentleman.

[The rest of this letter is lost.]

Burlington, Oct^{r} 23^{d} 1767, Friday.

Hon^{D} Father,

I wrote to you yesterday in a hurry on hearing that the packet was to sail from New York to morrow, but my letter got over to Bristol too late for the post, who, it seems, missed his Tuesday's stage and did not get into Philadelphia until Wednesday, and the Post Master kept him till Thursday morning and then despatched him early, whereas in common he is not despatched till

Thursday afternoon. I shall therefore send my letter to Col. Davenport to be forwarded by some vessel that is going to England from Philadelphia.

I forgot to mention before that I had received the copy of the King's grant to you of 2000 acres in Nova Scotia. I have not the least doubt but something handsome might be made of it if well managed, which, if I am well informed, is far from being the case with the lands in which you and Mr. Hughes are concerned. Mr. Jacob Hall (who keeps a tavern at the Wheat Sheaf near Frankford and has been lately at Nova Scotia with settlers for your company of which he is likewise a member) complains heavily of the narrow spiritedness and mismanagement of Mr. Hughes and the other members. They empowered him, it seems, to conduct there a body of settlers and to furnish them with such necessaries as they should have occasion for till they could subsist themselves; but though he gave them nothing but what was indispensably necessary they refused on his return to allow his account. This put it out of his power to return again to Nova Scotia, he having bought provisions on there on his own credit. By this means a number who had engaged to accompany Mr. Hall on his return were deterred from going, which has greatly retarded the settlement. And the poor people who were left there last fall and who, as they were not yet able to raise any thing for themselves, relied on a further supply to be brought by Mr. Hall, were during the whole winter in the greatest distress imaginable and must infallibly have starved had it not been for Lieut. Gov. Franklin and Capt. Houston an old settler in that province's taking compassion on them. These gent^{n} sent them supplies from time to time, in confidence that the company were gentlemen of too much honour not to repay them. However I am told by Hall (of whom I had this intelligence about 2 months ago) that the company are averse to paying a farthing and, he believes, will not. Some settlers, I understand, engaged to transport themselves at their own expense, but others were, on account of their present poverty, to be transported at the expense of the Company, who were to be repaid as the settlers grew able. Part of the former sort, however, were not able to comply with their engagements; nevertheless, Mr. Hall (who seems to have very right notions and a proper spirit for new settlements) says the Company ought cheerfully to advance every thing for the settlers till the settlement is well established, and take the people's words and mortgages for the repayment of what ought to be repaid. The people, too, complain on their part that the company have not complied with their engagements in hav-

ing the portion of land allotted to the settlers surveyed to them, which was to have been done immediately after their arrival. In short it appears that the Company want a head to contrive and conduct matters for them, and that they are too parsimonious and contracted in their views for such a design. I much doubt if you don't meet with difficulty in getting repaid the fees you have advanced to the Clerk of the Council in their behalf. Mr. Hall tells me that the lands which have fallen to your share are very valuable, being some of the best in the patent. He wishes that you had been present at the meeting of the Com^{r} for then, he says, matters would have been conducted more properly.—I intend calling on him soon to learn all the particulars. As to Mr. Hughes, I never see or hear from him. I believe he lives altogether in the country. I shall make it my business soon to see him and hear his account of the matter.

I send you enclosed a copy of a letter Mrs. Franklin received last night from Parson Brown of Newark, in which he gives some dark hints of an attempt to have me removed. But I have not the least suspicion of what he alludes to, as no Gov^{r} ever stood better with the people in general than I do at present. Some indeed suspect that there is a scheme to get Lieut. Col. Skinner who la* (a few words lost) Warren, to apply for the government, which they say he would stand a good chance of obtaining thro' the interest of Col. Fitzroy, his brother in law and the Duke of Grafton. But I confess I see no reason for such suspicions. I am at present on a very friendly footing with Cortlandt Skinner, and though he might wish his brother to be Governor here, yet I hardly think he would be guilty of any underhand means to have me removed from this government, unless I was to have another in exchange. And I much question whether Col. Skinner, now he is married to so great a fortune and has a good chance of rising in the army would wish to have the government.—Mr. Brown lives near and is intimate with Capt. Arch^{d} Kennedy, who without the least cause in the world, has taken, I'm told, an uncommon prejudice against me. Perhaps he may have thrown out some hints which may have alarmed Mr. Brown and induced him out of a regard

*[Lieut. Col. Skinner was a brother of Cortlandt Skinner the Attorney General of the Province. The missing words were probably "*lately married Miss Warren.*" She was a daughter of Sir Peter Warren, who married Miss De Lancey of New York; Col. Fitzroy married another of his daughters—Lt. Col. Skinner was a Captain of New Jersey troops in Col. Schuyler's Regiment captured at Oswego—was taken prisoner—sent to France—liberated on parole—went to England and, through the influence referred to in the text, was appointed a Lieutenant in the Regular forces and was rapidly promoted. His grandson is now Henry Viscount Gage.]—Cor. Sec.

to me to write to my wife on the occasion. At present it is all a mystery to me, but lest any such matter as he apprehends might be in agitation, I thought it prudent to send you a copy of his letter.

The Introduction to your Examination by the Editor of the Gent$^{n's}$ Magazine has been published in the Pennsylv^{a} Chronicle, and afterwards Hall published it in his Gazette. It gives great pleasure.

Gov. Hutchinson has published a volume of his History, which, I suppose, you will be able to get in London. I have just received one from N. Y. but have not read it.

I am, Hon^{d} Sir
Your ever dutiful son
WM. FRANKLIN.

BURLINGTON, May, 11, 1769.

HON^{D} FATHER,

A few days after I was favoured with your letter of the 20th of March by Capt. Creighton, the packet which left England the 7th of March is since arrived, but I had no letter by her from any one. I suppose (though you do not mention it) that you have wrote to me before relative to the letters I sent you by the January Mail; perhaps by Sparks who is not yet arrived. I wait impatiently for the arrival of the April Packet and I do not think it proper to convene the Assembly till I have answers to some letters I have wrote to the Ministry.

Mr. Galloway has sent me (agreeably to your desire) copies of the clauses added to the last Mutiny Act. I am very glad that they have passed, as I am convinced our Assembly would not have receded from the former mode of providing necessaries for the troops in quarters; and consequently altercation and confusion must have ensued.

I have wrote Col. Croghan what you mention concerning his affair. I hope the application will be attended with success.

Capt. Trent met with some unexpected delays, but I suppose is by this time arrived in England. I hear that S^{r} W^{m} has a letter from L^{d} H. mentioning that his Maj^{y} entirely approves of all the transactions of the Treaty, so that I imagine Capt. Trent will meet with no difficulty in his application. Indeed it is necessary to our friend W's affairs that he should finish his business in England in a short time, for those with whom he has left the care of his affairs find a good deal of difficulty in keeping matters quiet with some of his creditors during his absence.

I have entered far into the spirit of farming and have lately made a

considerable addition to my farm on very reasonable terms. It is now altogether a very valuable and pleasant place. I must beg you not to omit sending me the *drain plough* I wrote to you for, invented and made by W^m^ Knowles at Newport in the Isle of Wight. I observe by his Advertisement that he is to be heard of at Mr. Bailey's, Register of the Society for the encouragement of Arts. I likewise want a *Rotheran or Patent Plough*, as it is called. There is a draft of one in Mills's Husbandry and in the Select Transactions of the Edinburgh Society, but I can't get our workmen here to make one by it. They understand the making of no other ploughs but what are in common use here. I was thinking to request to get Knowles to make me one of this kind also (as he advertises all sorts of ploughs on the best mechanical principles) but since I have learnt that he lives in the Isle of Wight I am at a loss to know how it or the Drain Plough can be sent without a great expense, and I believe none of our vessels in time of peace touch at Portsmouth and to send it to London (if by land) will make it come very dear. If however there are opportunities of sending them by water to London or some other seaport from whence vessels sail to Philad^a^ the expense may not perhaps be worth minding.

I have not yet seen Mr. Caiger, who was recommended to you by Mr. Small and Mr. More nor heard of his arrival in America. Should it be in my power to serve him in what he requests I shall readily do it.

Mr. Morgan our Secretary is in Canada. I had a very polite letter from him last week in which he mentions his intention of being here some time this month or the next. Mr. Reed, our Dep^y^ Sec^y^ has, I understand, let his house at Trenton and intends soon for England to marry De Berdt's daughter. He has not however mentioned his intention to me and perhaps will not think it necessary. He never comes here but at the time of the Courts, leaving his business of Secretary entirely to clerks, both here and at Amboy. Mr. Morgan intimates as if he had a design of changing his deputy, but it is a matter I don't choose to interfere in; all that I shall desire is that whoever he appoints may be obliged to reside here and may be properly qualified to execute the business.

Public affairs remain much the same this side of the water as when I wrote to you last. The members of the New York Assembly are differing greatly among themselves. Col. Schuyler and Mr. Walton went out to fight a duel but thought better of the matter when they got on the ground and settled their differences amicably. Col. Lewis Morris is expelled for not being a resident in the borough of West

Chester for which he was elected, though he has a considerable estate in the borough. Mr. Livingston their late speaker, is like to be expelled on the same account. By the Resolves of the House they allow non-residents have a right to elect but not to be elected. Parties run very high among them.

The Boston writers have attacked Gov^{r} Barnard on his letters and on his being created a Baronet. They worry him so much that I suppose he will not choose to stay much longer among them. There is a talk that a new Governor is shortly to be appointed. Many of the principal people there wish you to be the man and say that you would meet with no opposition from any party, but would soon be able to conciliate all differences.

Our Supreme Court is sitting and I am a good deal engaged and hurried.

Betsey joins me in duty, I am as ever
Hon^{d} Sir Your dutiful son
WM. FRANKLIN.

A LETTER from WILLIAM STRAHAN to "Mr. David Hall, Merchant, in Philadelphia"*—the original of which was presented by Col. Johnson.

LONDON, January 11, 1766.

DEAR DAVIE,

My last to you was dated Decr. 14, by Egdon, a Copy of which I sent also by the Packett. I have since had yours of Novr. 9, via Dublin, by Captain Bryson, and delivered the Inclosed Letters, as you desired, with my own Hand to Messrs. Whitefield and Romaine. I have yet received no answer from either of them, but when I do, I will certainly transmit them to you by the first opportunity.

Since I wrote last, the Parliament has met, but as they sat but a few days, and did not enter upon Business, I have little News to write you.—You see the King's Speech is very short. I was in the House of Commons when it was read there; and heard, with much Indignation, George Grenville, make a long, confused, violent, inflammatory Speech, highly censuring the Behaviour of the Colonies in regard to the Stamp Act, calling it downright Rebellion, and proposing to make use of very harsh Expressions towards them in their answer to the Speech; but this was over-ruled, as it would appear to be condemning

* Mr. Strahan was printer to the King, a personal friend of Dr. Franklin, whose talents, character and influence subsequently raised him to a seat in parliament. Mr. Hall was Dr. Franklin's partner for many years. Before coming to America he had been a journeyman of Strahan's.—COM.

them unheard. Above twenty members spoke ; and almost all of them seemed to be for supporting and adhering to their Legislative authority over the Colonies, and their undoubted Right to impose Taxes upon them. But how they will act when the whole affair, with all the Circumstances attending it, is laid before them, I cannot pretend to say. I hope they will consider it coolly, and with the utmost Impartiality ; for nobody can at present foresee all the Consequences that may attend their final Determination in this truly important matter.— Various Schemes are said to be laid before the Ministry to compose this Difference ; but I have not been able to learn any of them that seemed to deserve the least Credit, and therefore I will not repeat them. This only I will say, that I am quite certain the present Ministry wish to do you all possible Kindness, most of them having been strongly against the Act whilst it was under Deliberation last Year. I only wish that they may do what they do, frankly, cordially, and heartily, and that before they separate, not only this, but every possible Difference which hereafter, as Things are now circumstanced, might happen, will be removed, or prevented ; and Such a Plan for an indissoluble union laid, as must give Pleasure to every Lover of his Country, and which indeed appears every Day, more and more, to be absolutely necessary in order to prevent the actual Separation of the various Branches of this most extensive Empire.

It hath not fallen in my Way, to be acquainted with the Agents for the other Colonies, and therefore I cannot pretend to say what part they act on this Occasion, or how industrious they are in the Service of their several Constituents. But the assiduity of our Friend Dr. Franklin is really astonishing. He is forever with one member of Parliament or another (most of whom by the bye seem to have been deplorably ignorant with regard to the Nature and Consequence of the Colonies) endeavouring to impress them ; first, with the Importance of the present Dispute ; then to state the Case clearly and fully, striping it of every thing foreign to the main Point ; and lastly, to answer objections arising either from a total Ignorance, a partial Knowledge, or a wrong Conception of the matter. To enforce this repeatedly, and with propriety, in the manner he has done for these two months, I assure you is no easy Task. By this means, however, when the Parl. re-assembles, many members will go into the House properly instructed, and be able to speak in the Debates with Precision and Propriety, which the Well-wishers of the Colonies have hitherto been unable to do.—This is the most necessary and essential Service he could perform on this Occasion ; and so effectually hath he done this,

and I will venture to say, he hath thrown so much true Light upon the Subject, that if the Legislature doth not now give you ample Redress, it is not for want of the fullest and most distinct Information in respect to the real merits of the Case. All this while too, he hath been throwing out Hints in the Public Papers, and giving answers to such Letters as have appeared in them, that required or deserved an answer.—In this manner is he now employed, with very little Intermission, Night and Day.

We now, with Impatience, wait the Issue. How it will be taken up, or in what manner finally settled, cannot be yet so much as guessed at. By much the most satisfactory and most honourable for both Sides, as well as the most salutary, safe, and beneficial for the whole British Dominion, would be to unite us together by an incorporating Union, in the same manner as Holland was in 1707, and allow the Colonies to send Representatives to our Parliament. This would completely answer every good Purpose to both Sides, and cement us, by insensible Degrees, in so complete a manner, as would forever put it out of the Power of any foreign Potentate, or internal Cabal, to separate us. By this very means was Wales long ago, and Scotland more lately, so firmly united to the English Crown, to the amazing agrandisement of this Island, which but for this had long ago become a Province to France, or some other Continental Power.

Remember us all to your Fireside, with the best Wishes of the present Season. My Wife is better than could reasonably be expected, considering her infirm State of Health at best, after so severe a Loss. All the rest of us are well. I hope I shall have good News to write you in my next, at least that Things are in a good Train.—Mean time I am, with unalterable Esteem and Affection—

Dear Davie Most sincerely Yours

WILL: STRAHAN.

DONATIONS

ANNOUNCED NOVEMBER 6TH, 1845.

From William Duane, Esq. Copies of three letters from Governor Franklin to his father, dated June 10th and October 23d, 1767, and May 11th, 1769; and of one letter to Dr. Franklin from a Committee of the House of Assembly on his appointment as Agent of the Province, dated December 7th, 1769.

From Colonel R. G. Johnson. MS. notes of proceedings of House of Commons January 19th, 1764, and of House of Lords January 23d, 1764, in reference to the case of John Wilkes, by an eye witness :— (probably William Strahan.)

Original letter from William Strahan to David Hall of Philadelphia, referring to the proceedings of the British Parliament in relation to the Colonies and to the conduct of Dr. Franklin as Agent, dated January 11th, 1766.

Original letter from Strahan to Hall, dated London, April 26th, and May 14th, 1768, referring principally to the appearance of John Wilkes before Lord Mansfield, April 20th, with comments upon the conduct of each.

From Major J. D. Graham, U. S. Top. Eng'rs. Paper from the Memoirs of American Academy on "The Latitude of Cambridge Observatory, Mass."

From Hon. Jacob W. Miller. Report of the Exploring Expedition to the Rocky Mountains in 1842, and to Oregon and North California in 1843–44, by Brevet Capt. J. C. Fremont.

From Rhode Island Hist. Soc. Providence Journal for October 20th, 1845, containing a Report of the proceedings of the Society, October 18th, 1845.

From Mr. S. Alofsen. Letter to the Hon. W. Gwin, M. C. concerning the steam ship Kamschatka, by George L. Schuyler.

Description of the Engines and Boilers of the steam ship Kamschatka, with plates.

A file of New York newspapers containing articles referring to the same vessel.

From Mr. Ezra Osborn. Nine old newspapers.

From Mr. Benjamin Longstreet. New Jersey Grants and Concessions, compiled by Aaron Leaming and Jacob Spicer.

From the Author. An original Map of the City of New Brunswick, with historical sketches by Rev. A. A. Marcellus.

From Lieut. C. S. Boggs, U. S. N. An answer to a Pamphlet entitled "A Letter to the Freemen and Freeholders of the City of New York &c." relative to the defection of the Six Nations, New York, 1752.

The Address of the People of Great Britain to the Inhabitants of America, London, 1775.

Collection of Manuscripts (about one hundred) formerly belonging to Governor Lewis Morris, of dates from 1730 to 1746.

Letter Book of Governor Morris, from January 1744 to March 1746.

Collection of Manuscripts (about one hundred) formerly belonging to Robert Hunter Morris, Governor of Pennsylvania, Chief Justice of New Jersey, &c. of dates from 1750 to 1756.

Collection of Miscellaneous Manuscripts referring to New Jersey, of various dates.

From Rev. Robert Davidson, D.D. Letter Book of Governor Lewis Morris, from May, 1739, to February, 1744.

From Rev. Ravaud Rodgers. Original Commissions of Rev. John Rodgers, D.D. as Chaplain of New York Convention 1777, and of Congress August 5, 1786.

Autograph Receipt of John Witherspoon for money on account of Princeton College.

MEMBERS ELECTED

NOVEMBER 5TH, 1845.

RESIDENT MEMBERS.

Rev. Archibald Alexander, D.D., *Princeton.*
Prof. J. Addison Alexander, *Princeton.*
Prof. Stephen Alexander, *Princeton.*
Joseph Annin, *Princeton.*
Samuel G. Arnold, *Trenton.*
Isaac Andruss, sen., *Newark.*

Rev. Horatio N. Brinsmade, D.D., *Newark.*

Rev. James S. Cannon, D.D., *N. Brunswick.*
Wm. F. Clemsen, *Belvidere.*
Joel W. Condit, *Newark.*

William L. Dayton, *Trenton.*
Rev. Robt. Davidson, D.D., *N. Brunswick.*

Rev. R. I. Germain, *Burlington.*
J. G. Goble, M.D., *Newark.*

Oliver S. Halsted, *Newark.*
Joseph Henry, *Princeton.*

John F. Hageman, *Princeton.*
Robert E. Hornor, *Princeton.*

Rev. Jacob J. Janeway, D.D., *New Brunswick.*

Philip Kearny, *Newark.*
Archibald K. Kearny, *Newark.*
Theodore F. King, M.D., *Perth Amboy.*

Adam Lee, *Rahway.*

John P. B. Maxwell, *Belvidere.*
Jacob W. Miller, *Morristown.*
Isaac Mickle, *Camden.*
S. Smith Morris, *Newark.*

Prof. John D. Ogilby, D.D., *N. Brunswick.*
Charles S. Olden, *Princeton.*

Lewis Perrine, *Trenton.*

John Rutherfurd, *Newton.*

James T. Sherman, *Trenton.*
William M. Scudder, *Newark.*

E. M. Topping, *Princeton.*

Prof. Samuel A. Van Vranken, D.D., *New Brunswick.*

Ashbel Welsh, *Lambertville.*
Josiah S. Worth, *Princeton.*

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CORRESPONDING MEMBERS.

Hon. Jacob Burnet, *Cincinnati, Ohio.*
Aaron O. Dayton, *Washington City.*
Rev. Charles H. Halsey, *Sing Sing, N. Y.*
Rev. Samuel L. Southard, *New York.*

HONORARY MEMBERS.

Hon. John Quincy Adams, LL.D., *Quincy, Mass.*
Thomas F. Gordon, *Bridgewater, Bucks Co. Penn.*
Henry Howe, *New Haven, Conn.*
Hon. William P. Preble, LL.D., *Portland, Maine.*
Peter G. Stuyvesant, *New York.*

TRENTON, *January* 15*th*, 1846.

THE SOCIETY met, agreeably to the By-Laws, in the City Hall. The PRESIDENT, (the three VICE PRESIDENTS being also present) called the meeting to order at 1 o'clock, P.M. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved of as amended; after which the Corresponding Secretary, reported the correspondence of the Society since November. Letters were read from the Hon. Jacob Burnet, of Cincinnati; Rev. Samuel L. Southard, Rev. Charles H. Halsey and Rev. O. M. Johnson of New York; Messrs. Peter G. Stuyvesant, Thomas F. Gordon and Henry Howe, in acknowledgment of their election as Corresponding or Honorary members.

The Secretary also stated that in accordance with the resolution passed at the last meeting, he had opened a correspondence, through Robert Walsh, Esq'r. U. S. Consul at Paris, with the representatives of the Franklin family, presumed to be residing there, with the view of obtaining the papers of Wm. Franklin, Governor of the Province of New Jersey from 1763 to 1776; and read for the information of the Society a communication to the Consul on the subject.

The Treasurer reported the total amount of his receipts to have been - - - - - - - - - - $269 00

And his expenditures - - - - - - - 57 06

Leaving on hand - - - - - - - - $211 94

The Chairman of the Executive Committee presented the first Annual Report of that Committee.

Reference was made in the report to the loss the Society had sustained in the outset of its career, by the death of two of its most highly esteemed members—Professor A. B. Dod, and the Hon. J. P. B. Maxwell; the former of whom had been solicited by the Com-

mittee to deliver the Annual Address, "but while the letter of the Chairman of the Committee lay unopened on his desk, he was summoned away to mingle in other scenes."

The present condition and future prospects of the Society were represented as being very flattering: a considerable number of valuable historical works had been received as donations during the year, and the collection of manuscripts, originals and copies, already exceeded five hundred, and was very valuable. Among those whose liberality to the Society was the most marked, the Committee felt bound particularly to name Col. Robt. G. Johnson, of Salem, James G. King, Esq. of New York, the Hon. W. A. Duer, of Morristown, Lieut. C. S. Boggs, U. S. N. and Dr. Davidson, of New Brunswick, and acknowledged their obligations to the Editor of the Newark Daily Advertiser for valuable favors rendered in connection with the printing of the Society.

In the course of the report, the attention of members was called "to the importance of collecting facts relating to distinguished citizens of New Jersey, and also those relating to particular periods or events in our history. Such investigations will be of immense value to the future historian. Let each member in his particular location collect all the information within his reach in reference to some of the queries put forth by the Society; reduce them to writing and lay them before the Society and thus in the best possible manner illustrate our history. It is the purpose of the Committee if practicable to have at least one such paper read before the Society at each of its meetings."

Rev. Mr. McLean, from the Committee appointed to procure an Act of Incorporation for the Society, reported that a bill had been prepared, which would be immediately submitted to the Legislature.

Mr. Stacy G. Potts, from the Committee appointed to memorialize the Legislature in relation to the Colonial Documents, reported that a memorial had been presented and was now in charge of a special Committee of the House of Assembly.

Reports from Standing Committees being in order,

Hon. Wm. A. Duer, from the Committee on Publications, reported that the first volume of the Society's Collections, comprising Mr. Whitehead's History of East Jersey, had nearly passed the press, and would be ready for the subscribers therefor in about ten days. A copy of the work in sheets, so far as printed, was presented for the inspection of the members.

Mr. Whitehead, from the Committee on Statistics, reported ver-

bally that some progress had been made in collecting the Criminal Statistics of the State, and it was thought by the next meeting considerable interesting information would be in the possession of the Committee.

The report recently made to the Legislature by the Keeper of the State Prison, and alluded to in the Governor's message as exceedingly valuable, was prepared at the suggestion of the Committee and forms furnished therefor.

Rev. Dr. MURRAY, from the Committee on Nominations, reported favorably on a large number of names submitted to them at the last meeting, which were subsequently balloted for and unanimously elected Resident, Corresponding or Honorary members.

Various nominations for membership were then made and referred to the same Committee.

On motion of the Rev. Dr. MURRAY, it was resolved, that Messrs. S. G. Potts, D. V. McLean, and Wm. B. Kinney be a Committee to nominate officers for the ensuing year.

And on their report the officers of the past year were re-elected unanimously.

Mr. S. G. POTTS offered a resolution authorizing an application to the Legislature for the use of a suitable room in the public buildings at Trenton for the Library of the Society, which, the hour for the delivery of the address having arrived, was on motion of Mr. J. J. CHETWOOD laid temporarily on the table.

The Annual Address was then delivered by the Rt. Rev. GEORGE W. DOANE: its subject being the "Goodly heritage of Jerseymen."*

On motion of Rev. Dr. MILLER,

Resolved, That the thanks of the Society be given to BISHOP DOANE for the excellent and eloquent address which he has just delivered, and that he be requested to furnish a copy for publication.

Mr. POTTS then called up his resolution, and Judge DUER moved that it be postponed until the next annual meeting, which motion, after debate, was lost.

Dr. MURRAY moved to amend the resolution by authorizing enquiries to be made in other quarters as to what accommodations could be procured, but the amendment, on a division, was lost. The question then recurring on the original resolution,

* Bishop Doane's Address having been printed in a pamphlet form and generally distributed it was thought unnecessary to reproduce it here. A copy will be sent to any subscriber who may not have one, on application "post paid" to the Corresponding Secretary, so long as any copies remain on hand for distribution.

Mr. W. A. WHITEHEAD, on the ground that the wording of the resolution might compromit the Society as to the ultimate location of the library, moved to amend it by adding "should the Society eventually conclude to locate at Trenton"—which was adopted, and the Resolution was then passed as follows:

Resolved, That a Committee be appointed to make application to the Legislature now in session for the use of a suitable room in the public buildings of the city of Trenton for the accommodation of the library of the Society, should the Society eventually conclude to locate in Trenton.

Messrs. S. G. POTTS, H. W. GREEN, and T. J. STRYKER were appointed the Committee.

On motion of Rev. D. V. MCLEAN, it was

Resolved, That a Committee of three be appointed to examine the minutes with the view of supplying any deficiencies that may exist in the records, referring to the first meeting called in Trenton for the formation of the Society.

Himself and the two Secretaries were appointed the Committee.

On motion of Mr. WHITEHEAD,

Resolved, That the copies of the Society's Collections reserved for distribution be disposed of as follows—to the State Library, Library of Congress, Library of Princeton College, Library of Rutgers College, and Library of Harvard College, each one copy; and to each Historical, Antiquarian, or Literary Society which has exchanged or shall exchange its publications with the Society one copy. The remaining copies to be kept for the future action of the Society.

Mr. CHARLES KING remarked, in substance, that he wished to bring before the Society a subject for historical inquiry with which considerable interest was associated. The Society had, by a delegation, taken part in November last in the services at Elizabethtown, on the erection of a monument to the memory of the Rev. James Caldwell, than whom no one could be more worthy of the distinction as a man, and a patriot; but there were circumstances connected with the death of that eminent person which the erection of a monument had caused to be revived, respecting which there was not that certainty which it was desirable there should be; and he would therefore present a resolution for the consideration of the Society calculated to subserve that end—

Resolved, That a Committee of three of the Historical Society be authorised to inquire into and report the facts and circumstances connected with the death of the Rev. Mr. Caldwell in November 1781.

The motion having been seconded by Professor McLean, Dr. MURRAY expressed his pleasure at the manner in which this matter had been brought to the notice of the Society. That any one at all acquainted with the subject must already be aware that at least a dozen different accounts of the cause and circumstances of Mr. Caldwell's death might be gathered in the vicinity of Elizabethtown, and he hoped that the Committee, should one be appointed, would discard all prejudices and friendships and give the Society the precise truth as near as could be obtained; for truth, and truth alone if possible, should a Historical Society perpetuate.

The resolution was then adopted, and Messrs. C. King, Murray and Magie were appointed the Committee.

Some disposition having been evinced to determine the location of the library at the present meeting, on motion of Mr. WHITEHEAD, it was

Resolved, That the question of the permanent location of the Library be left unacted upon until the *next annual meeting*, when it shall be taken up as the special business of the meeting.

The Society then adjourned to meet at Burlington on the first Thursday of May.

The Officers of the Society for the present year are:

Hon. JOSEPH C. HORNBLOWER, LL.D., *President.*
ROBERT G. JOHNSON, Esq., }
Hon. PETER D. VROOM, } *Vice Presidents.*
Hon. JAMES PARKER, }
WILLIAM A. WHITEHEAD, (Newark,) *Corresponding Secretary.*
JOSEPH P. BRADLEY, (do.) *Recording Secretary.*
THOMAS J. STRYKER, (Trenton,) *Treasurer.*
THOMAS GORDON, *Librarian.*

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Rev. DANIEL V. McLEAN, *Freehold.*
Rev. NICHOLAS MURRAY, D.D., *Elizabethtown.*
WILLIAM B. KINNEY, } *Newark.*
ARCHER GIFFORD, }
Rev. ELI F. COOLEY, *Trenton.*
RICHARD S. FIELD, *Princeton.*
A. BRUYN HASBROUCK, LL.D., *New Brunswick.*
Rt. Rev. GEO. W. DOANE, D.D., LL.D., *Burlington.*
ELIAS B. D. OGDEN, *Paterson.*

SELECTIONS FROM THE CORRESPONDENCE AND PAPERS

Laid before the Society, January 15, 1846.

FROM THE HON. JACOB BURNET.

CINCINNATI, *Dec.* 4, 1845.

DEAR SIR,

I have received your communication, of the 8th Nov'r, notifying me that I have been duly elected a corresponding member of the New Jersey Historical Society: accompanied by a copy of their Constitution and By-laws.

For this compliment, I desire to tender my most respectful thanks, to the institution.

Altho' fifty years, wanting a few months, have gone by, since I left the place of my nativity, to settle in the north western territory, then an uncultivated wilderness; yet have I not for one moment, during that interval, forgot, that New Jersey is the place of my birth—that all my early affections and attachments were formed and located there, and that wherever my lot has been, or may hereafter be cast, I am still and ever shall be a true hearted Jerseyman.

As such I claim to be a participator in the high character, belonging to that loyal and patriotic state.

It will afford me pleasure, to aid in advancing the laudable objects of the Society, as far as may be in my power.

Very respectfully,
Your ob't serv't,
J. BURNET.

WM. A. WHITEHEAD, Esq.

FROM THE REV. CHARLES H. HALSEY.

SING SING, N. Y., *Nov.* 12, 1845.

DEAR SIR,

I acknowledge the receipt of your's of the 8th inst. informing me of my election, as a corresponding member, of the New Jersey Historical Society.

I have long desired, that an Association of this character should exist in my native State; and the favourable auspices under which

your Society has been organized, are a source of sincere congratulation.

May it realize the bright anticipations, and encouraging prospects of usefulness, which are already presented.

While I express my gratification at the honour conferred upon me; I desire also to convey, the assurance of my hearty co-operation, in advancing by every means in my power, the interests and objects of your Society. I am, dear sir,

Respectfully yours, &c.,
CHAS. H. HALSEY.

W. A. WHITEHEAD, Esq., Cor. Sec. N. J. Hist. Soc., Newark, N. J.

FROM THE REV. SAM'L L. SOUTHARD.

NEW YORK, *Nov.* 13, 1846.

SIR,—I have duly received your official notice of my election as a corresponding member of the New Jersey Historical Society, and also a copy of the Constitution and By-laws of the Society.

I am, at heart, as much *a Jerseyman* as ever—and my change of residence has not destroyed the love which I have ever felt for my own, above all other States—and I trust that I shall ever take the deepest interest in whatever may in any way concern her history, or her honor, or the happiness of her people. I need scarcely add, that I will do all in my power to promote the objects of the Historical Society. And I desire to assure you, and the Society, that I am truly sensible of the honor which has been done me by the election.

I am,
Very respectfully, &c.,
SAM'L L. SOUTHARD.

W. A. WHITEHEAD, Esq.

TO ROBERT WALSH, ESQ.,
CONSUL OF THE UNITED STATES, PARIS, FRANCE.

NEWARK, New Jersey, *Nov.* 21, 1845.

SIR,

The Historical Society of New Jersey, at a recent meeting adopted a resolution, of which a copy is enclosed, directing me as

their Corresponding Secretary to open a correspondence with the representatives of the Franklin family in Paris, in the hope of obtaining the papers of Wm. Franklin, Esq., Governor of the Province of New Jersey from 1763 to 1776: the possession of which it is presumed they have.

Possessing no clue that would guide me safely in addressing any individual in Paris, directly interested in the matter, I have ventured to trespass upon your time and politeness so far as to present to you the information received by the Society, and their views and wishes respecting the papers alluded to; assured, from the interest known to be taken by you in every subject calculated to illustrate the history of our country, that the Society may confidently rely upon your services, so far as they can with convenience and propriety be rendered, in instituting the necessary enquiries.

On the death of Governor Franklin which occurred in England in November, 1813, his son William Temple Franklin obtained possession, it is thought, of all his papers and transferred them to Paris where he then resided. These papers, as well as many which had belonged to his grandfather Dr. Franklin, are said to have been in charge of the widow of Mr. Wm. T. Franklin as late as 1828:—she being still a resident of Paris. Whether that lady yet survives or not is unknown to any member of the Society, and it is to be regretted that the inquiries now contemplated were not commenced while yet Mr. Warden, our former Consul, was living to furnish some of the requisite information, for through him, it is understood, knowledge of Mrs. Franklin's family might have been obtained. The Society would be pleased if, through you, the persons having the papers could be discovered and their request, to have their library made the depository of them, respectfully presented.

The time appears to have arrived when the characters and opinions of those who from education, early prejudices, or official station, became identified with the Royal cause in the struggle which secured the independence of the United States, may be safely confided to the keeping of the American people. Every allowance which the peculiar circumstances of their position call for is made with just discrimination; and in several of the States, when a reference is made to many whose ties to their sovereign were too strong to be severed by the considerations which swayed the mass of their countrymen, it is as much to record services rendered for the welfare of the community

which are held in grateful remembrance, as to state peculiarities of opinion.

The people of New Jersey look back to the administration of Governor Franklin with respect, regarding it, truly, as having been of more permanent benefit to the province than the administration of any one of the royal governors who preceded him. A residence of many years had made him aware of the wants of the people and the resources of the province, and excited a commendable desire for its prosperity; and however much we may lament that he should have so identified himself with those whose exertions tended to the sacrifice of the liberties of the country, we can in some measure estimate the difficulties which surrounded him and accord to him sincerity of opinion and disinterestedness of purpose.

There may be yet a few among us (and there have been many such) from whose memories the characteristics which rendered the Governor's dwelling the seat of hospitable enjoyment have not yet faded; and on whom the amiability and virtues of her whose remains moulder in a neighboring city made a lasting impression: enabling them to confirm the statements of the monumental record that, the wife of William Franklin 'united with refined sense and personal elegance, sincerity and sensibility, politeness and affability, godliness and charity.'*

These remarks are made with the view of placing before such representatives of the family as may be found, the true grounds upon which the Historical Society of New Jersey base their application.

The Society would esteem it a privilege to be entrusted with the charge of all Governor Franklin's papers of whatever character, but they particularly aim at the procurement of those connected with the administration of the public affairs of New Jersey. It is thought, from imperfections in some of the public records and from the peculiar circumstances under which the government of Governor Franklin terminated, that many official documents and business papers essentially necessary to the due understanding of the events of that period were retained by him and transported to England when he bade a final farewell to America. It is hoped that the possessors of the papers may recognise the claims that history has to all such as may in any manner throw light upon the past or serve as guides for the future, and place them in what is certainly the most proper depository for them.

[*Mrs. Franklin was buried beneath the chancel of St. Paul's Church, New York, and a tablet to her memory is inserted in the wall.]

I send you herewith a copy of the "Constitution and By-laws of the Society"—and trusting that the liberty I have taken in its behalf will be overlooked by you, I remain

Sir, with much respect,

Your ob't serv't,

W. A. WHITEHEAD,

Cor. Sec. N. J. Hist. Soc.

ROBERT WALSH, Esq., Consul, &c. &c.

COPY OF A LETTER FROM

LORD CORNBURY TO THE INHABITANTS OF BERGEN;

the original of which was presented by Mr. SAMUEL CASSEDY:

"NEW YORK, May the 16th

1706

"GENTLEMEN

"Having had intelligence lately from the West Indies that a french Squadron of Men of Warr with Land forces on board them, intend to attack this place, I am taking the best methods I can to put the place into a posture of defence, for which purpose I shall want a considerable number of Stockades, and being informed that there are great number of trees growing upon bergen point fit for that purpose, I send this therefore to desire that you will allow some persons who shall be sent from hence to cut the Stockades we want, and likewise that some of your people may help with their Carts to bring them to the water side, for which they shall be paid.

I, am

Gentlemen

Your assured friend

CORNBURY—"

Address—"To the Inhabitants of the Town of Bergen in the Eastern Division of New Jersey"—

DONATIONS

ANNOUNCED JANUARY 15TH, 1846.

From Mr. Henry Howe of Connecticut. An original letter of James Rumsey, (the first person in this country who succeeded in propelling a boat by steam,) dated Shenandoah Falls, Sept. 20th, 1781.

An Autograph of Patrick Henry.

Virginia, its History and Antiquities, by Henry Howe. 1 vol. 8vo.

From Mr. David A. Hayes. Four volumes of French Newspapers, published in New York and Paris, 1797—1798.

From Mr. H. D. Maxwell of Easton. Original Affidavit before Council of Safety of Morristown, August 19th, 1778, respecting the movements of the Indians on the frontier.

From the United States. Map of New York Bay and Harbor, by U. S. Coast Survey—(concluding sheets.)

From the Society. Collections of the N. Y. Hist. Society, 5 vols. 8vo.

From Hon. L. Q. C. Elmer. Original M.S. Journal of Gen'l Ebenezer Elmer during the Revolution, from January, 1776, to March, 1777, (with the troops in the State of New York,) and from June to August, 1779, (with General Sullevan's expedition,) together with extracts from "Orderly Books" of different commanders, from April to December, 1776, and four miscellaneous MS. books.

From Hon. George Sykes. Part of Map of New York Bay and Harbor, by U. S. Coast Survey.

From Mr. William Wilson. Plutarch's Lives—London, 1603.

Present state of England, by Chamberlayne—London, 1707.

Harris's Dictionary of Arts and Sciences—London, 1708.

Elizabethtown Bill in Chancery.

Census of the United States, 1840. 4 vols.

From the Librarian. Rogers's Geological Survey of New Jersey. 1 vol. 8vo.

Transactions of the Amer. Phil. Society. Vol. VI, 1809.

Collections of N. York Hist. Soc. Vols. I. and III.

From Mr. Samuel Cassedy. Original letter from Lord Cornbury to the Inhabitants of Bergen, May 16th, 1706, requesting poles for Stockades.

Presentation of an Antique Medal of the Saviour, dug up in a garden in the Holy Land, with translations of the inscriptions.

From Rev. R. K. Rodgers. The New Brunswick Guardian for February 27th, 1793.

MEMBERS ELECTED

JANUARY 15TH, 1846.

RESIDENT MEMBERS.

Stephen B. Brittin, *Elizabethtown.*
Charles S. Boggs, U. S. N., *N. Brunswick.*

James B. Burnet, *Elizabethtown.*
John J. Bryant, *Elizabethtown.*

Prof. Wm. H. Crosby, *New Brunswick.*
Nathan W. Cole, M.D., *Burlington.*

Abraham Coles, M.D., *Newark.*
Roswell L. Colt, *Paterson.*

Wm. C. De Hart, U. S. A., *Elizabethtown.*

Rev. David D. Demarest, *N. Brunswick.*

Mahlon Dickerson, *Suckasunna.*

Jacob D. Edwards, *Elizabethtown.*

Francis A. Ewing, M.D., *Trenton.*

Julius A. Fay, *Elizabethtown.*

Richard T. Haines, *Elizabethtown.*
Corns. L. Hardenbergh, *New Brunswick.*
Rev. Luther Halsey, D.D., *Perth Amboy.*

Oliver S. Halsted, jr. *Newark.*
John Hopper, *Paterson.*
Rev. Sam'l. B. How, D.D., *New Brunswick.*

Rev. Abraham Messler, D.D., *Somerville.*

Rev. Richard C. Moore, *Elizabethtown.*

James S. Nevius, *New Brunswick.*

A. Schuyler Neilson, *New Brunswick.*

Wm. S. Pennington, *Newark.*

Aaron S. Pennington, *Paterson.*

A. Richardson, *Freehold.*
William Ross, *Elizabethtown.*

Rev. Ravaud K. Rodgers, *Bound Brook.*
John Rodgers, *Burlington.*

Ferdinand S. Schenck, M.D., *Six Mile Run.*
Franklin Smith, *New Brunswick.*

Fitz R. Smith, M.D., *New Brunswick.*
Francis J. Spooner, *New Brunswick.*

Major Gen. Winfield Scott, U. S. A.

John Travers, *Paterson.*
Thomas Talmage, *Somerville.*

John Terhune, *New Brunswick.*
Rev. Wm. J. Thompson, *New Brunswick.*

Edward S. Vail, *New Brunswick.*
Reuben Van Pelt, *Elizabethtown.*

John Van Dyke, *New Brunswick.*
George A. Vroom, *New Brunswick.*

Garret D. Wall, *Burlington.*
Elias Winans, *Elizabethtown.*
Benjamin Williamson, *Elizabethtown.*

Isaac H. Williamson, *Elizabethtown.*
Ira C. Whitehead, *Morristown.*
Wm. M. Whitehead, M.D., *Elizabethtown.*

Moses M. Woodruff, M.D., *Elizabethtown.*

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS.

Hon. John McP. Berrien, *Savannah, Geo.*
Rev. Stephen Dodd, D.D., *East Haven, Con.*
Prof. James Hamilton, *Nashville, Tenn.*

Prest. Philip Lindsley, D.D. *Nashville, Tenn.*
Nicholas Longworth, Esq. *Cincinnati, Ohio.*
Hon. John McLean, *Cincinnati, Ohio.*

Rt. Rev. Charles P. McIlvaine, *Gambia, Ohio.*

HONORARY MEMBERS.

Rev. Thomas De Witt, D.D., *New York.*
George Folsom, Esq., *New York.*

Peter Force, Esq.. *Washington City.*
Rev. Thos. Hartwell Horne, *London, Eng.*

William H. Prescott, Esq., *Boston.*

Burlington, *May* 7, 1846.

The Society met at 1 o'clock pursuant to adjournment, in the Lyceum Room. The President took the Chair; Vice Presidents Johnson and Parker being also present. The Corresponding Secretary reported that since the last meeting communications had been exchanged with the Historical societies of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Kentucky and Georgia, the American Antiquarian Society and with various members; and read communications, or extracts, received from Hon. J. McP. Berrien, of Georgia, Rt. Rev. C. P. McIlvaine, of Ohio, Rev. Stephen Dodd, of Connecticut, Wm. H. Prescott, Esq., of Boston, Rev. Thomas Hartwell Horne, of London, Rev. Dr. DeWitt and Geo. Folsom, Eqs., of New York, Hon. John McLean, of Ohio, President Lindsley and Professor Hamilton, of Nashville University, Dr. Abraham Clark, of Kinderhook, Gen. Winfield Scott, Dr. Maurice Beesley, of Cape May, and others, in acknowledgment of their election as resident, corresponding or honorary members;—several of the letters conveying interesting historical details and reminiscences. Communications from different societies were also laid by him before the Society—one, from the New York Historical Society referring to a projected limitation of the edition of scientific works based upon the results of the Exploring Expedition to one hundred copies of each work, had been responded to by a memorial to Congress, in conjunction with other societies, for an increase of the number.

The Secretary stated that no answer had as yet been received to the communication sent to our Consul in Paris in relation to the Franklin papers.

The receipt of gratuities to the funds of the Society were acknowledged from President Lindsley, Rev. Mr. Dodd and Dr. Clark; and various donations were announced.

From Mr. Thomas Gordon was received an interesting original letter from Wm. Dockwra, in behalf of the Proprietaries, to Gen.

Andrew Hamilton, dated April 1st, 1693—one of the many important despatches of the period so necessary to a proper understanding of our history, of which very few are preserved.

Col. R. G. JOHNSON presented in person a "Manuscript copy of the Journal of Abel Thomas a Quaker preacher while travelling through the Southern States in 1781—with some correspondence of his with Gen. Green,"—and also a copy in manuscript of "a brief account of the Swedish Missions in Racoon and Penns Neck, by Rev. Dr. Nicholas Collin—copied from their Church Records." These were referred to the Committee on Publications.

A letter from the Hon. WM. A. DUER, tendering to the Society for publication his "Life of Lord Sterling" was referred to the same Committee.

Rev. D. V. MCLEAN, Chairman of the Executive Committee, reported that an act of Incorporation had been secured since the last meeting.

Rev. Dr. MURRAY, from the Committee on Publications, reported in substance that the edition of the first volume of the Society's Collections ("*East Jersey under the Proprietary Governments, by* WM. A. WHITEHEAD,") was nearly all disposed of, and that the Treasury had been refunded the entire amount advanced for its publication.—He also stated that through the liberality of BISHOP DOANE the Society had been relieved from all charge for the printing of the annual Address, and at his request a copy had been furnished gratuitously to each member—leaving the Society in possession of a number for sale and distribution to the Societies with which publications were exchanged. The following resolutions were reported from the Committee and adopted:

Resolved, That it is expedient a quarterly publication of the proceedings of the Society should be made under the direction of the Committee on Publications, comprising such letters and papers read before the Society, or extracts from them, as may be deemed of permanent interest—acknowledgments of donations received, &c.

Resolved, That the said publication be commenced forthwith with the proceedings and papers of the last year—and that it be furnished to subscribers at $1, or non-subscribers at 37½ cents per number.

On motion of Rev. R. K. RODGERS—

Resolved, That the thanks of the Society be presented to Bishop Doane for his liberality in defraying the expense of publishing the annual address of the Society.

Mr. WHITEHEAD, from the Committee on Statistics, reported

verbally that very little progress had been made in collecting the Criminal Statistics of the State through want of co-operation on the part of gentlemen in different parts of the State. The report of the Keeper of the State Prison prepared at the request of the Committee had been printed by the Legislature, and through the courtesy of DANIEL DODD, Jr., Esq., a sufficient number of copies had been secured for the Society for distribution to its correspondents.

No report having been presented from the Committee on Monumental Inscriptions in Newark, the Secretary drew the attention of the members to the resolution constituting the committee—which requested that those residing in other of the old towns in the State should act as committees for the same purpose, and stated—to show that the subject was attracting the notice of other Societies, as important—that a committee had recently been raised by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania to collect the inscriptions in Philadelphia and surrounding country as "such an undertaking properly performed, would be valuable, since historical doubts might thereby be cleared up."

The Rev. Mr. MCLEAN, from the Committee appointed at the last meeting to examine the minutes in reference to any alterations or amendments respecting the details of the Society's organization, reported that they did not recommend any alteration of the minutes, but suggested a reference to the Committee on Publications of the propriety of having some further details recorded respecting the origin of the Society :—and the subject was referred accordingly.

Mr. T. J. STRYKER, from the Committee on the application to the Legislature for Rooms in the State House, reported that the occupancy of rooms had been conceded, should the Society conclude to locate its library at Trenton.

Mr. WHITEHEAD, from the Committee on the Memorial respecting Colonial Documents reported that the measure suggested had been brought favorably to the notice of the Legislature in a report from the proper committee of the Assembly, but requiring a vote of two-thirds, it had failed to pass—the vote being 29 to 17. He moved that the Committee be continued in charge of the subject until the next session of the Legislature ; which was agreed to.

Rev. Dr. MURRAY, from the Committee on Nominations, reported favorably on a large number of names referred to them ; and upon being ballotted for, the gentlemen were generally elected. Other nominations were then made.

On motion of Mr. WHITEHEAD,

Resolved, That a Committee of three be appointed to select a design

for a Seal, to be used by the Society, and that they submit the same for approval at the next meeting.

The President appointed Bishop Doane and Messrs. Field and Whitehead the Committee.

On motion of Mr. Wm. B. Kinney,

Resolved, That a Standing Committee of five members be appointed, whose duty it shall be to procure from time to time, as favorable opportunities may offer, either by purchase or exchange, such rare books, pamphlets, or other publications referring to the history of the State, as cannot be otherwise obtained; and that the Treasurer is hereby authorized to pay the drafts of the Chairman of said Committee, countersigned by the President or one of the Vice Presidents of the Society for the sums that may be required, not exceeding fifty dollars, during the time that may intervene between two regular meetings of the Society.

Resolved further, That the said Committee make a report at each regular meeting of their action under the above resolution.

The President directed the Committee to consist of Messrs. Kinney, J. J. Chetwood, McLean, Doane, and Mickle.

An interesting paper was then read by the Rev. A. A. Marcellus, on "The Discovery and early Settlement of Monmouth County."

The thanks of the Society were, on motion, directed to be tendered to Mr. M., with the request that a copy of his paper be furnished for the archives of the Society.

Rev. Dr. Murray presented a resolution that the next meeting of the Society be held at Elizabethtown, which on motion of Col. Johnson and after some observations by Dr. Griscom, Bishop Doane and others, was amended by the substitution of Salem, and adopted as follows—

Resolved, That the next meeting of the Society be held at Salem, on the first Thursday in September and that the members residing there be a committee to make the necessary arrangements.

During the sitting of the Society Mr. Jno. Rodgers of Burlington placed on the table for the inspection of the members, the original deed from James, Duke of York, for West Jersey, August 6th, 1680, in good preservation excepting the seal. It would seem that copies were given to each grantee, as an original deed of the same character

is in the Rutherfurd collection. "The Concessions and Agreements of the proprietors, freeholders, and inhabitants of West Jersey," bearing date March 3d, 1675—6, beautifully engrossed on a parchment book, was also presented for examination. The worthy men whose names were appended showed their wisdom in recording the document in such a durable shape, as it is in a much better state of preservation than the concessions of Berkeley to Carteret to the East Jersey settlers, which are engrossed on a simple roll of parchment.

These interesting documents (printed in Leaming and Spicer's Collections, pp. 382—419) belong to the office of the Surveyor General of the West Jersey Board of Proprietors.

SELECTIONS FROM THE CORRESPONDENCE AND PAPERS

Laid before the Society, May 7th, 1846.

FROM REV. O. M. JOHNSON.

DENTON, *Orange Co., N. Y., January 12th,* 1846.

SIR,

Your note, informing me of my election as a corresponding member of the New Jersey Historical Society, came to hand in due season, accompanied by a copy of the Constitution and the By-laws. I did not immediately reply, thinking at the time I might have it in my power to meet with the Society in New Brunswick, or to make an acknowledgment of the honor conferred upon me in some other form. More recently I have been hindered by causes which I will not stop to mention, farther than to say that the last is sickness, from which I am slowly recovering, so that I hold my stylus with a feeble and reluctant hand. But I have felt so much anxiety not to let this opportunity wholly pass away, without expressing my gratification and delight at the successful organization and progress of the Society, that I seize the opportunity, though at the expense of some pain, to send you a brief expression of my feelings.

It gave me much pleasure last winter to observe that measures were in progress for the organization of such a Society as the history of New Jersey needed and deserved. As a native of the State, what concerns her interest and honor concerns me. I have wandered some in my time, have lived in other States, and seen other climes, but "my heart untravelled still returns" to her as my birth place and my home. My ancestors were among her early settlers, and her past

history is therefore in some sense my own. I accept therefore with pleasure, and trust I shall respond hereafter with some degree of interest and zeal to the invitation to co-operate with the Society in its work. I have some manuscripts in my possession, pertaining to the ecclesiastical history, not indeed of N. J., but of this region, yet I think in some degree illustrative of the former also, for several of the pastors of churches in this region have been natives of N. J. These documents I have proposed to myself to copy as soon as I may be able, and offer to the Society, if they would be likely to prove of any interest or value.

* * * * * * * * * * *

Please to regard me as a subscriber for the History of East New Jersey.

I am, with much respect,

Your obedient servant,

O. M. JOHNSON.

WM. A. WHITEHEAD, Esq.

FROM REV. STEPHEN DODD.

EAST HAVEN, *Feb. 3d*, 1846.

DEAR SIR,

Your communication of the 17th ult., with a certificate of my election to be a "Corresponding Member of the New Jersey Historical Society" with a copy of the Constitution and By-laws of the same, were duly received. For this honorable notice, I desire to return my unfeigned thanks, and shall regard it as a special invitation to contribute my assistance to promote the objects of the Society.

Feeling a strong attachment to that *State* in which I was born, and spent the youthful period of my life, I was glad when I heard of the formation of a Historical Society, for I had long supposed that there were valuable materials for interesting history, if they could be collected—and now I think this object will be gained by the associated enterprize of the citizens of New Jersey in this "*Historical Society.*" It has my best wishes for all desirable success. I must have all that it may feel able to collect and to publish. * * * *

Being conversant with the records of some of the ancient towns in this vicinity, from which our ancestors proceeded, who colonized Newark, I may be able to collect some matters that may be worthy of

preservation. To this department I will attend as soon as practicable. In the mean while, I hope the members will harmoniously co-operate in promoting the great and useful object of the Society, in collecting and publishing all the matters that may be useful to posterity.

I subscribe myself, your friend and fellow-citizen,

STEPHEN DODD.

W. A. WHITEHEAD, Esq., Corresponding Secretary, &c.

P. S.—For the funds of the Historical Society I enclose —— as a token of my good wishes. S. DODD.

FROM REV. PHILIP LINDSLEY, D.D.,

President of Nashville University.

NASHVILLE, *Tenn., Feb. 17th,* 1846.

DEAR SIR,

Your letter of the 17th ultimo, informing me that the New Jersey Historical Society had done me the honor to elect me a corresponding member of their body, was duly received. For this distinguished mark of their regard, I beg to tender them my very grateful acknowledgments. As a Jerseyman, I feel a deep interest in the successful prosecution of their labors—the value of which I can appreciate in advance. I have had abundant reason to deplore the defective, and oftentimes erroneous, character of the statements which, in various forms, make up, or rather serve as an apology for, the history of my native State. How little is known about the revolutionary sufferings and sacrifices of the good old whigs, men and women, of New Jersey? I heard more on this subject, when a child, from my parents and grand-parents, and far more impressively told, than I have since met with in all the books which have hitherto been published. Her colonial history is still almost a blank. And of this too, when fairly written, her sons may well be proud.

I rejoice that you have, at length, taken this matter seriously in hand. I trust that no pains or expense will deter you from doing ample justice to the theme.

I have seen much of the United States; and were I privileged to live a thousand years, wherever I pleased, I would select New Jersey as my *home*. With her soil, mingle the ashes of all my ancestors since the year 1680.

I suppose, of course, that nothing is expected from me in the way of historical contributions. I enclose a trifle (fifty dollars) as a small token of gratitude, respect, and good-will. Please consider me a *paying* subscriber for all your publications.

I will thank you for two words in reply—acknowledging the receipt of this, &c.—

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Very respectfully,
Your most obedient servant,
PHILIP LINDSLEY.

WM. A. WHITEHEAD, Esq.

FROM REV. PHILIP LINDSLEY, D.D.

UNIVERSITY OF NASHVILLE, *Feb.* 23*d*, 1846.

DEAR SIR,

I wrote you, on the 17th instant, a letter of thanks, and enclosed a U. S. Treasury note of fifty dollars for the New Jersey Historical Society. On the following day, I received a copy of Bishop Doane's excellent Address—for which I am greatly indebted to your kindness. It breathes the genuine Jersey spirit. It revived a thousand fond recollections and associations; and made me sigh again for my beloved father land. This one noble speech in behalf of New Jersey has already afforded me more satisfaction than twice fifty dollars could yield. Would that my countrymen could be prevailed on to comprehend their true interests, and to appreciate the unrivalled advantages of their position!

"O fortunati, nimium, sua si bona norint."

New Jersey is, or ought to be, the Eden of America.

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With sentiments of great consideration and respect,
I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your most ob't serv't,
PHILIP LINDSLEY.

WM. A. WHITEHEAD, Esq.

FROM ABRAHAM CLARK, M.D.

KINDERHOOK, *March 4th*, 1846.

SIR,

I have duly received your several communications, which ought to have been sooner acknowledged; but the fact is I have been waiting for a temporary rally of the waning faculties of an octogenarian, which scarcely afford me the power to write, even with a pencil. I have little to return to the members of the N. J. Historical Society but my thanks for their kind remembrance and the honor of appointment. Few Jerseymen have had the subject of this Society nearer their hearts than I have.

The early history of the old borough of Elizabethtown has always been viewed by me as peculiar—the settlement in its infancy having been made by persons of cultivated minds and of substantial property. A considerable portion of them were old Cavaliers, adherents to the Stewart dynasty—not cordial to the Hanoverian succession even to the commencement of our revolution.—A larger part were Presbyterians and some Puritans from the east end of Long Island—some Huguenots, &c. Many English customs were continued, such as sports at Whitsuntide holidays by riding at the ring, almost to my day, and fox hunting kept up with spirit until the present century.

Retrospection upon a favorite subject, aided by traditions from the oldest, and at all times my choicest companions, carries me back to the early settlement of my own neighborhood—this was two and a half miles west of Elizabethtown on the farm of my ancestors, never owned by others. My grand father, Thomas Clark, was an Alderman, Judge, and, I believe, keeper of the King's arms, as many muskets, and cartouche boxes with the letters G. R. on their covers, remained in the house until used by our patriots. He left but one son—Abraham, well known as a signer of "the Declaration."

On our western boundary was my great uncle, Abraham Clark, whose highest ambition was gratified in being a cavalry officer in the militia, called then 'Capt. of the Troop.' He left but one son who died a bachelor. On our east was the farm of Capt. Hampton, an Episcopalian, a member of the Colonial Assembly, who lived in the handsome style of a *gentleman* of the *old school*. He left no son; was grand-father of Jonathan Hampton Lawrence who died in New

York last year aged 86 years. With these three neighbors I had a *quasi* acquaintance, as they were subjects of family talk among my seniors. On our north was an ancient farmer, Lewis Mulford, one of the few Puritan families. His son (not his eldest) died last year aged 91 years. An ancient fortress of masonry stood on the left bank of the Elizabethtown creek about 400 yards below the stone bridge—it had been strongly built, but was dilapidated about sixty years ago.—It is pleasing to reflect that no account of war with, or murders by, the Indians exists—and I must add, as a little remarkable, that the ever present signal of modern pioneers, *the Log Cabin*, was unknown among our forbears.

My father's house, which may be still standing, was built one hundred years ago, on the model of *his* father's—this last in ruins seventy years since extends our view far back. My father had two brothers, Abraham, mentioned before; James, a highly respectable farmer in Union township—and a sister, Mrs. Day—these last two lived to a great age.

I have thus given a sketch of my neighborhood, *ante-bellum*, which, if not sufficiently antiquarian as to time, and suburban in location, may, I hope, encourage others better situated to trace back the doings of our old Burghers in their corporate capacity.

I have inadvertently passed by one of our boundaries; on the south was a noble farmer—Ephraim Terrill, another Capt. of troopers; an Episcopalian, a man of strong mind and social qualities. He was the grandfather of Edmund Thomas, an officer of the army—also of Dr. David S. Craig, of Rahway. It was owing to my familiarity with this old gentleman that I attribute my taste for antiquarian research and my love for the good old times. A knowledge of this passion I should have supposed confined to my own bosom, but that some twenty-five years ago I was elected an honorary member of the American Antiquarian Society, and since then received the like honour from the Royal Society of the North Sweden, Denmark and Norway, whose researches are directed to the ante-Columbian discovery of our country.

I herewith present, through you, to the N. J. Historical Society some of their archives, not likely to be obtained elsewhere. These, with my thanks for their kind remembrance of me, and the enclosed for the use of the Society please offer in my name.

With respect,

Your obedient serv't,

ABR'M. CLARK.